

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07355 220343Z
ACTION PPT-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3002
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CPAS, CASC, KN, KS
SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

REF: OSAKA-KOBE 876

1. WE ARE ADVISED BY THE ENTRY CONTROL SECTION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE THAT TRAVELERS WHO HAVE BEEN TO NORTH KOREA MAY ENTER THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, BUT ARE SUBJECT TO "SPECIAL EXAMINATION" BY THE MINISTRY.

2. IN THE CASE OF SOUTH KOREAN VISA APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN TO NORTH KOREA, SUCH "SPECIAL EXAMINATION" WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A VISA. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF SOMEONE WHO ALREADY HAS A VALID SOUTH KOREAN VISA, THERE WOULD BE TWO OPTIONS, DENIAL OF ENTRY UNTIL AN EXAMINATION CLEARS THE INDIVIDUAL, OR ADMISSION INTO THE COUNTRY PENDING CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION (WHICH COULD RESULT IN EXPULSION OR DENIAL OF FUTURE ENTRY IF IT DOES NOT CLEAR THE INDIVIDUAL). SURVEILLANCE BY KOREAN AUTHORITIES WHILE IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE A LIKELY POSSIBILITY, EVEN IF THE TRAVELER HAS SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE SPECIAL EXAMINATION.

3. COMMENT: WE DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA BY
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ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO PLANS FREQUENT TRAVEL TO SOUTH KOREA. GETTING A SECOND PASSPORT VALID ONLY FOR TRAVEL TO THE NORTH IS NOT NECESSARILY A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION SINCE THE GOVERNMENT HERE COULD SUBSEQUENTLY DISCOVER THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN TO NORTH KOREA AND THEN, IF THE FINDINGS OF THE "SPECIAL EXAMINATION" ARE NEGATIVE, DENY ENTRY INTO SOUTH KOREA. THE DECISION REGARDING

TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA AND ITS IMPACT ON MR. DELP'S
BUSINESS WITH SOUTH KOREA NATURALLY RESTS WITH MR. DELP.
GLEYSTEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS
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